



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street, Room 713, Los Angeles, California 90012  
(213) 974-1101  
<http://ceo.lacounty.gov>

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September 21, 2009

To: Supervisor Don Knabe, Chairman  
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Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas  
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

## SACRAMENTO UPDATE

### Pursuit of County Position on Legislation

**AB 295 (Ammiano)**, as amended on September 4, 2009, would extend the availability of funds for the three-year pilot project to increase adoptions of hard to place children to June 30, 2010.

AB 1808, the 2006 Human Services Budget Trailer Bill, provided \$4 million annually to establish a three-year pilot in four counties, including Los Angeles, to increase the number of adoptions of children who have been in foster care 18 months or more, who are between 9 and 18 years of age, and who are placed in a group home or a foster home with a non-relative. The pilot project provides pre and post-adoption services for children and families including: recruitment of potential adoptive parents, parent training, support groups, information and referrals, and other services to help remove barriers to adoption. Funds for the pilot project are allocated by January 1 each year, subject to an appropriation in the annual State Budget Act. Los Angeles County's allocation for the pilot project is \$1.25 million annually.

The availability of funding for the pilot project is scheduled to expire on December 31, 2009; however, the Assembly Appropriations Committee estimates that \$1.3 million in funding for the pilot project will remain unspent as of this date. Under current law, these unspent funds would be returned to the State General Fund. AB 295 would allow these funds to remain available until June 30, 2010.

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective And Caring Service"*

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Each Supervisor  
September 21, 2009  
Page 2

According to the Department of Children and Family Services, extending access to the pilot project funds for an additional six months will allow the County to continue to provide services to help hard to place, at-risk children find permanent adoptive homes. The Department of Children and Family Services, and this office support AB 295. Support of AB 295 is consistent with existing Board policy to support proposals to enhance adoptions by increasing funding for adoption services and post-adoption activities. Therefore, **the Sacramento advocates will support AB 295.**

AB 295 passed the Senate Floor by a vote of 39 to 0 on September 10, 2009 and the Assembly Floor by a vote of 79 to 0 on September 11, 2009, and is now on the Governor's Desk.

AB 295 is sponsored by the City and County of San Francisco and the County Welfare Directors Association. Entities verified in support of AB 295 effective August 28, 2009, include: the Alameda County Board of Supervisors; American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO; Aspiranet; California Alliance for Child and Family Services; California Communities Institute; California Maternal, Child and Adolescent Health Directors; California Mental Health Directors Association; California Society of Clinical Social Work; California State Association of Counties; Family Builders; Family Law Section, State Bar of California; Juvenile Court Judges of California; National Association of Social Workers, California Chapter; and State Public Affairs Committee of the Junior League of California. The measure is opposed by the California Department of Finance.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:RA  
MR:VE:lm

c: All Department Heads  
Legislative Strategist  
Local 721  
Coalition of County Unions  
California Contract Cities Association  
Independent Cities Association  
League of California Cities  
City Managers Associations  
Buddy Program Participants